

Today, threatening; probably rain afternoon or night. Tomorrow, rain; moderate temperature. Detailed report on page 5, second section.

FLAMES SWEEP WALTER REED; SOLDIER KILLED

Inmates of U. S. Army Hospital Burned in Morning Blaze.

INSANE PATIENTS RUSH TO SAFETY

Flimsy Wood Structures Burn Fiercely Before Fire Is Subdued.

One insane soldier was killed and several others suffered minor injuries on hands and arms in a fire which completely destroyed two frame structures of the Walter Reed General Army Hospital group and partially destroyed two others shortly after 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

The dead man was last night identified as Alvin Messenger, a sergeant of the Seventh Central Artillery of Panama, who was admitted to the hospital less than twenty-four hours before his death. He was burned badly and suffered from shock before succumbing to his injuries. Scarcely last night failed to locate his record book and his enlistment point is unknown.

Inquiry Into Fire's Cause.
The cause of the fire was the subject of investigation last night by a special board appointed by the commanding officer, Col. J. B. Glenn. Investigation has thus far established that the blaze originated in the room occupied by Messenger. In Ward 43, known as the psychopathic ward, where soldiers suffering from mental disorders were housed. Officials were unable to say whether the shell-shocked patient purposely started the fire to satisfy an insane whim.

The fire construction of the destroyed buildings was due to refusal by Congress to make substantial appropriations for more substantial ones, although the danger had frequently been called to the attention of the War Department.

Money Loss Put at \$20,000.
Loss of the buildings and slight damage to wards 41 and 42 was estimated by Maj. L. Webb, Jr., executive officer of the post, at \$20,000. The ward for the insane contained a series of special baths where patients were given special treatment. The loss of this extra apparatus may bring the total loss up to \$30,000.

Albert Williams, 19 years old, of Omaha, Ala., a patient in the detention ward, who was to have been discharged in time to visit his mother over the Christmas holidays, was injured in forcing his way through the wire netting placed over the windows of his section to prevent the escape of those who might seek liberty during temporary mental disorder.

Shock Danger Soon Past.
Fear that the excitement would tend to rob patients of the gains they have made under the hospital's treatment was last night discounted by Maj. Webb, who declared the patients had suffered only temporarily from the excitement, and would not be affected to an extent to delay their recoveries.

Post Firemen in Action.
The fire department of the post was in action when the first company of the District apparatus arrived and patients in the ward had already been brought from the blazing structure by members of the post department and soldiers attached to the hospital.

With the sounding of the fire alarm at the post, soldiers hurried to the scene and unroofed the leaping flames dashed into the burning structures and escorted the patients in those wards to safety.

Nelson Brown, a civilian member of the Hospital Fire Department, was burned about the face and hands on effecting the rescue of inmates.

Soldiers Wander Helplessly.
While the fire was raging, one of the unbalanced inmates who had been brought safely from the burning building was walking around aimlessly asking for his mother, while only a short distance away a small group of patients were kneeling in prayer.

The post fire department and the local companies that responded to the two alarms had the flames under control when the fire apparatus responding to the third alarm arrived. The three alarms brought out thirteen companies of apparatus, but only nine companies were put into service.

Mud Makes Work Difficult.
As the soft ground surrounding the burning structure absorbed the volume of water being thrown on the blaze, the heavy apparatus was compelled to remain a distance away from the buildings because of the mud. Long lines of hose had to

World Recovery Program Outlined to Harding

Plan of U. S. Entry Into Modified League of Nations Presented by Hoover During Two-Hour Visit.

By SAMUEL W. DELL.
MARION, Ohio, Dec. 12.—President-elect Harding today heard the cogent reasoning of Herbert Hoover in support of a world program which would put the United States into the league of nations after the covenant has been modified so substantially as to leave no question regarding America's right of independence of action. Mr. Hoover firmly believes the league to be the working basis upon which a successful world agreement can be turned. That conviction was communicated to Senator Harding in a two-hour conference which, to use Mr. Hoover's own words, "ran the gamut" of affairs international and domestic, economic, financial and political.

"We talked over the league situation, of course," said the former Food Administrator, in discussing the conference with newspapermen. "I have always been in favor of this league and the peace treaty and modifying them. I see no use in reopening the 10,000 questions which have been closed and committed to documents. It must be substantially changed in machinery and in other ways, we all know. But I believe it can be done and other members of the league will show an inclination to follow America's lead."

Consider Industry.
Mr. Hoover indicated that the discussion went far beyond the mere question of the political phase of the relationship which must be established between the United States and the other nations of the world. The importance of finding immediate solution for the problem of industrial stagnation confronting Europe and already being reflected in the United States, also was given consideration. This latter led naturally to the discussion of domestic problems, including the falling off of American exports, the disastrous drop in the price of farm products and unemployment in the United States.

Neither Mr. Hoover nor the President-elect vouchsafed a statement

Cable Deadlock Seen After Day Of Debate Here

With a view to breaking the deadlock over distribution of former German cables in the Atlantic and Pacific, the International Communications Conference was in session yesterday afternoon. Determination to hold a Sunday session is a precedent in the procedure of the conference, and indicates the zeal of the delegates.

In favor of one form of settlement, America, Great Britain and Italy find themselves stubbornly arrayed against France and Japan. The conference adjourned after a late session Saturday night on the proposals of delegates who hoped that an eleven-hour reconciliation might be reached if negotiations continued yesterday. From an official quarter late last evening it was learned that no definite compromise settlement has yet been reached.

America, Great Britain and Italy suggest that, instead of attempting distribution of the German cables among the five powers, an agreement be reached for joint ownership of the lines. It is proposed by the three powers just named that islands like Yap (in Japan) be internationalized, serving as a center of communication. This scheme also meets with French and Japanese opposition.

The American proposal that the Guam-Yap sector of the Pacific cable should be allocated to the United States; the Yap-Dutch East Indies sector to Holland, and the Yap-Shanghai sector to Japan met with Japanese opposition. The Japanese contend that Japan should retain at least a half interest in the Guam-Yap and Yap-Dutch East Indies sectors.

France determinedly opposed the American proposal to divert the German-Azores cable from the Azores to Genoa, dividing its control between Italy and the United States. As far as the Pensance-to-Halifax cable is concerned, Great Britain already has agreed to restore it to the former connection between New York and Emden (Germany) in consideration for the transfer to Great Britain of one of the American trans-Atlantic cables between England and Canada. It is stated that Great Britain's disposition to obtain operating control of the German cables she is now working forms another phase of the situation.

DANIELS ASKS OVER 1 BILLION FOR NAVY WORK

Wants 88 New Ships. Says Defenses Must Be Increased.

BUILD MORE OR JOIN DISARMAMENT PLAN

Would Group All Ships And Marines Under Central Control.

Great increases in naval armaments are recommended by Secretary of the Navy Daniels in his annual report to Congress, which was made public yesterday.

Within the next three years he proposes the construction of eighty-eight new fighting craft, including three battleships, one battle cruiser, thirty light cruisers, eight gunboats, eighteen superdestroyers and eighteen submarines.

This vast program, the Secretary declares, is essential to national safety unless "we enter a world concert of powers pledged to peace."

Mr. Daniels estimates that the appropriation for the coming year will have to be \$679,515,731.47, or \$446,253,157.47 more than the amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920. The money asked by the Secretary of the Navy, which does not cover any part of the cost of the proposed building program, exceeds by \$68,000,000 the amount appropriated in 1919; more than doubles the money given by Congress in 1916, and is not quite five times as great as the sum given the Navy Department in 1915, the so-called normal year.

Near Billion Mark.
The estimated cost of the building program would place the debt of the navy for 1921 near the \$1,000,000,000 mark. The entire question of the huge appropriation, the gigantic building program, the largest in number of ships ever asked—hinges, in the opinion of Mr. Daniels, upon whether or not this nation shall enter the league.

His report reads: "If the United States takes its stand with other countries in an organization to prevent war and promote peace, our present navy with some additions will be adequate for our defense and the prevention of aggression."

"But, if we are not to enter into a covenant with other powers which are pledged to peace, if this country is to stand alone, outside any effective association of nations, we must be prepared to defend our interests against any possible opposition or combination. This will mean continuance of naval construction indefinitely. The old story of dreadnaught added to dreadnaught, of taxation heaped upon taxation, will begin again."

Japan Rushing Program.
Though the Secretary makes this appeal for the league, his report cites almost in the next paragraph that Japan who already is a member is building capital fighting ships as fast as possible, having completed five since the armistice and is rushing work on eight more.

Since the armistice, the report reveals that the Department has been conducting an intensive study of armament construction. This request is made to avoid a protracted performance.

Youngest Member In 66th Congress



CLARENCE J. MEAD
Member of Congress from the Thirteenth Michigan district, which comprises part of the city of Detroit, is the baby of the House of Representatives. He has just passed the age limit of 25 years.

Foe Prisoners Thank Americans For Saving Lives

Eighteen hundred Austro-Hungarian troops express gratitude to the Twenty-second Regiment, American Infantry, for saving their lives while they were prisoners of war near Chabarovsky, in Siberia, in a letter from Lieut. Col. Ferdinand Reber, their commanding officer, received by the State Department and made public here yesterday.

"On my return from Russia, where I spent six years as a prisoner of war," writes Col. Reber, "I feel it my first and most sacred duty to state that we owe our lives to the American officers of the Twenty-seventh Infantry Regiment."

"At the beginning of October, 1918, influenza broke out in our camp. The condition of the prisoners was so reduced in consequence of the accommodations and insufficient food provided by Russians that the disease spread with frightful rapidity. There were soon 1,600 serious cases. The men no longer could lie in their beds, and many of them had to nurse bed-ridden comrades."

"No medicines were available. The shortage of food was terrible. We were all convinced our lives would soon be one vast cemetery."

"At this horrible pass the Twenty-seventh Foot Regiment arrived and took charge."

"The Americans brought provisions for a month. Under the new regime the epidemic was soon quelled. Our death rate sank to a minimum."

"After having saved our lives Col. Morrow set about making those lives worth living. Workshops were arranged, schools founded, a library, a theater, baths and a coffee house were built and grounds for sports were laid out."

BLACK AND TANS FIRE CORK IN REPRISAL; MAIN BUSINESS SECTION NOW MASS OF RUINS WITH BLAZE UNCHECKED; LOSS, \$50,000,000

SEE CORK FIRE AS REPRISAL FOR MAN'S DISAPPEARANCE

DUBLIN, Dec. 12.—Several days ago a former soldier named Horgan, employed on the Cork Constitution, and who was friendly with the police and military, disappeared. On Thursday night armed and masked men entered all the Cork newspaper offices and presented a document to be printed the following morning, which read:

"If G. Horgan is not returned by 4 o'clock on Friday, the 10th of December, rebels of Cork, beware, as one man and one shop shall disappear for each hour after the given time. Signed 'B. and T.' (Black and Tan police)."

Horgan has not reappeared and on Saturday a lorry full of auxiliary cadets was ambushed in the outskirts of Cork. Last night and today the city of Cork was in flames.

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Harding May Seek Agreement With England and Japan to Suspend All Naval Construction for Five Years

By FREDERIC WILLIAM WILE.
Announcement will be made in England today that President-elect Harding will be urged to take the initiative in an effort to arrest the ruinous competition in naval armaments among America, Great Britain and Japan. Pressure is to be brought to bear upon him to submit a proposal that the world's three most formidable sea powers shall jointly proclaim a "naval holiday" of five years. During that period none of them would engage in fresh construction. The scheme, which is said to have the active support of "men prominent in the Republican party," has been formulated with a view to ameliorating the oppressive financial burdens under which the American, British and Japanese people are all bending as an aftermath of the war.

The project will be given publicity in Europe through an exclusive cablegram to the London Morning Post from its Washington representative, A. Maurice Low. By a striking coincidence the plan emerges on the very day that Joseph Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, asks Congress to appropriate \$750,000,000 for naval construction for the ensuing five years.

The London Morning Post will say: "Between now and March 4, 1921, very earnest efforts will be made by men prominent in the Republican party to induce President-elect Harding immediately after his assumption of office to enter into negotiations with Great Britain and Japan to agree to the cessation of naval construction for the ensuing five years. The men who are striving to bring about this 'naval holiday' are neither pacifists nor 'little Americans,' nor are they believers in the 'universal brotherhood of man.' On the contrary, they are practical men of affairs, on some of whom will devolve the burden of providing the revenue for the government during the next few years, and the administration of the country. They are not swayed by sentiment, but they are governed by material considerations, and it is simply because these practical considerations that the opposing sinking billions of dollars in naval construction is not on foot."

Belasco Show Massive.
Owing to the size and massiveness of the David Belasco production of "Deburau," which begins its Washington engagement at the Belasco tonight, Manager L. Stoddard Taylor has requested that all patrons time their attendance promptly at the beginning of the performance, so that the production will not be marred by seating late comers. This request is made to avoid a protracted performance.

RUINS OF ARMY HOSPITAL WARD WHERE SOLDIER DIED



Wards 43 and 44 were completely destroyed, and wards 41 and 42 partially damaged by fire which threatened a series of wooden annexes of the Walter Reed General Army Hospital yesterday.

Night Starts With Shooting and Flames Break Out After Curfew.

CITY HALL BURNED Incendiary Bombs Employed on Guttered Buildings, Witnesses Say.

CORK, Dec. 12.—The greater part of the business section of Cork is in ruins today as a result of reprisal fires that followed the ambushing of a party of auxiliary police in the outskirts of the city last night. Four of the police are reported dead and fourteen wounded. Shooting begun in the streets early in the evening. Shortly after the ten o'clock curfew the military and police began firing buildings.

Large shops on the main business streets are in ruins. Streets present an appearance of war-time devastation. The city hall and other municipal buildings, and the Carnegie Library have been destroyed with part of the Sinn Fein city document store. The Sinn Fein city document store has been burned.

Incendiary bombs are alleged to have been used to fire the city buildings.

Women and children fled from their homes the day of night and sought refuge in the hotels. The flames are still spreading from the burning buildings and the damage, it is estimated, may reach \$50,000,000.

Two brothers, alleged to have been involved in the ambush, are reported to have been taken from their homes and shot by the military.

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New Flames Start.
CORK, Dec. 12.—With at least eighteen fires in the heart of Cork, state fires are breaking out in many places.

Eighteen or twenty buildings about the City Hall district were set on fire Saturday night. Fires of incendiary origin have been breaking out in various parts of Cork for more than two weeks.

The situation is so bad tonight that Dublin firemen were called out especially to assist in the work of the city could be saved. They were told that unless they made haste the entire city of Cork would be wiped out.

The Dublin fire department left on a special train.

Excitement and Panic.
The excitement and panic throughout the city all night and all day today are indescribable. Newspapermen who witnessed many of the fires in the city have passed through one of the most terrible ordeals in history.

All the buildings from Cork to Wexford streets are burned out. The premises which front Patrick street, Black street, from Wexford street, are also demolished, as well as the strip from Maylor to Maylor street. The Cash Company's large drapery store and its entire front wall blown into the street, completely blocking traffic.

Stores Looted.
Further down on Patrick street, Egan's principal thoroughfare, Egan's jewelry store, the latest in South Ireland, was broken into and all kinds of valuable goods removed. Shops alongside were fired. The flames sprang up with rapidity, house after house igniting, including the largest Irish goods house outside of Dublin.

Next block, every building burning down in both blocks, and as a result the entire heart of the city was gutted.

It is feared that many people were burned to death. As the people in the vicinity rushed into the streets in their night attire.

The suburbs of Cork experienced their share of the terror, when seeing the city ablaze, many of the people flocked out of their homes. On the streets they met people from the city flocking into the country with the stories of the attack by the "Black and Tans," who went through the houses in the city shooting, throwing bombs and setting fires.

One Hurt; 11 Hurt.
In one district one person was killed and eleven wounded men were dragged from their houses, many houses were fired into.

At 9 o'clock this morning 139 houses were destroyed, and the fires were still going unabated.

About 5 o'clock Saturday night a party of "Black and Tans" in semi-armored automobiles were attacked by Sinn Feiners, who hurled bombs at the machine, wounding twelve, three of them seriously, and themselves escaping without casualties.

When citizens of the city were hurrying home to escape the 10 o'clock curfew, the "Black and Tans" appeared on the streets and immediately began attacking the pedestrians. The people were beaten with butts of rifles, and fled. Panicked calls were sent for city ambulances and the injured were sent to hospitals. Such large numbers that the ambulances were unable to cope with the situation and many men had to be left lying in the street.

Lights Ordered Out.
The electric light, the gas and power stations were ordered to cease working and the whole city was plunged into darkness until it was lit up by the frightful conflagration when the orgy of property destruction began.

Tonight a group of citizens of Cork made an appeal to the military authorities to prevent the recurrence of last night's disaster. Gun strikers undertook to place special patrols, with orders to shoot looters.

Newspaper correspondents from many parts of the world, as well as Irish newspaper representatives, viewed the destruction and fear has sprung up that some of their number were beaten to death.

It is learned tonight that high explosives were also used in the work of destruction in Patrick street.